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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today we are privileged once again to have our guest Chaplain, Rabbi Arnold E. Resnicoff, U.S. Navy, to lead us in prayer.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain, Rabbi Arnold E. Resnicoff, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, this week we remember nightmares, to reaffirm our dreams. On this Holocaust Remembrance Day—during this week we have set aside—our Nation recalls victims of the Holocaust: a Holocaust brave Americans took up arms to fight and many gave their lives to end. And so, before this session starts, and during a time when our brave men and women still risk their lives for better times, we pray the day will come when the lesson of this horror, the lessons of all nightmares, help make our dreams of peace come true.

From the Holocaust we learn: when human beings deny humanity in others, they destroy humanity within themselves. When they reject the human in a neighbor's soul, then they unleash the beast, and the barbaric, in their own hearts.

And so, remembering, we pray: if the time has not yet dawned when we can proclaim our faith in God, then let us say at least that we admit we are not gods ourselves. If we cannot yet see the face of God in others, then let us see, at least, a face as human as our own.

You taught us through the Bible—taught that life might be a blessing or a curse: the choice is in our hands. So many people, so many peoples, have felt the curse of life too filled with cruelty, violence, and hate. As Americans we pray—we vow—to keep alive the dream of better times; to keep our faith that we can be, will be, a force for good; a force for hope; a force for freedom; a blessing, not a curse—to all our people; to all the world.

And may we say, Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable TED STEVENS led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GRAHAM of South Carolina). The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today the Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Jeffrey Sutton to be a circuit judge for the Sixth Circuit. Under the previous consent agreement reached, a vote will occur on the confirmation of that nomination at 12 noon.

The Senate will recess for the weekly party lunches from 12:30 until 2:15 p.m.

Following the confirmation of Jeffrey Sutton, it is my intention to resume consideration of the nomination of Priscilla Owen to be a circuit judge for the Fifth Circuit. It will be my hope that we can reach a time agreement for the vote on this judicial nomination.

In addition, there are a number of other legislative items that will be scheduled for action during the remainder of this week, including the bio-shield bill, the digital and wireless technology legislation, State Department authorization, and other legislative or executive items that can be cleared over the coming days.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if the distinguished majority leader will allow me to direct a couple of questions to him. First, we have asked before. Do

you think there is any way we can have the vote on the Sutton nomination after the caucus? We have a lot of people who want to be able to discuss it in our caucus. I don't think it would in any way hurt the schedule or hold up getting to the Owen nomination by 20 minutes or half an hour, but there would be a number of Senators—especially Senator HARKIN—who would deeply appreciate it if we could have a vote at 2:15. We would even be willing to shorten our caucus to expedite the time on this and vote at 2 rather than 2:15.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I have been made aware of the request. I talked to our caucus and our leadership and really would much prefer to go ahead with the vote as scheduled. A number of people made plans to come back from out of town specifically for this vote recognizing that we had made it clear the vote would be at 12 noon today. Out of consistency, when I set a time for a vote, people alter their plans very specifically to make sure they are here. Some simply can't be back, and I understand that as well. But we will go ahead and have that vote at noon today.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we have been advised by the leader's competent floor staff that this afternoon, during the debate of Priscilla Owen, it will not be necessary for somebody to be here all day. I will be happy to be here, as the distinguished leaders know, but we would hope there would not be a vote unless the majority leader gives us some notice.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, for today, that is absolutely fine. We will work in good faith. The objective with all of these nominees is to have good discussion as we go forward. We want to make sure that occurs. I expect today that we will not have a vote this afternoon, and we will notify leadership in advance.

Mr. REID. One final note: We have worked during the recess. I think the

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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